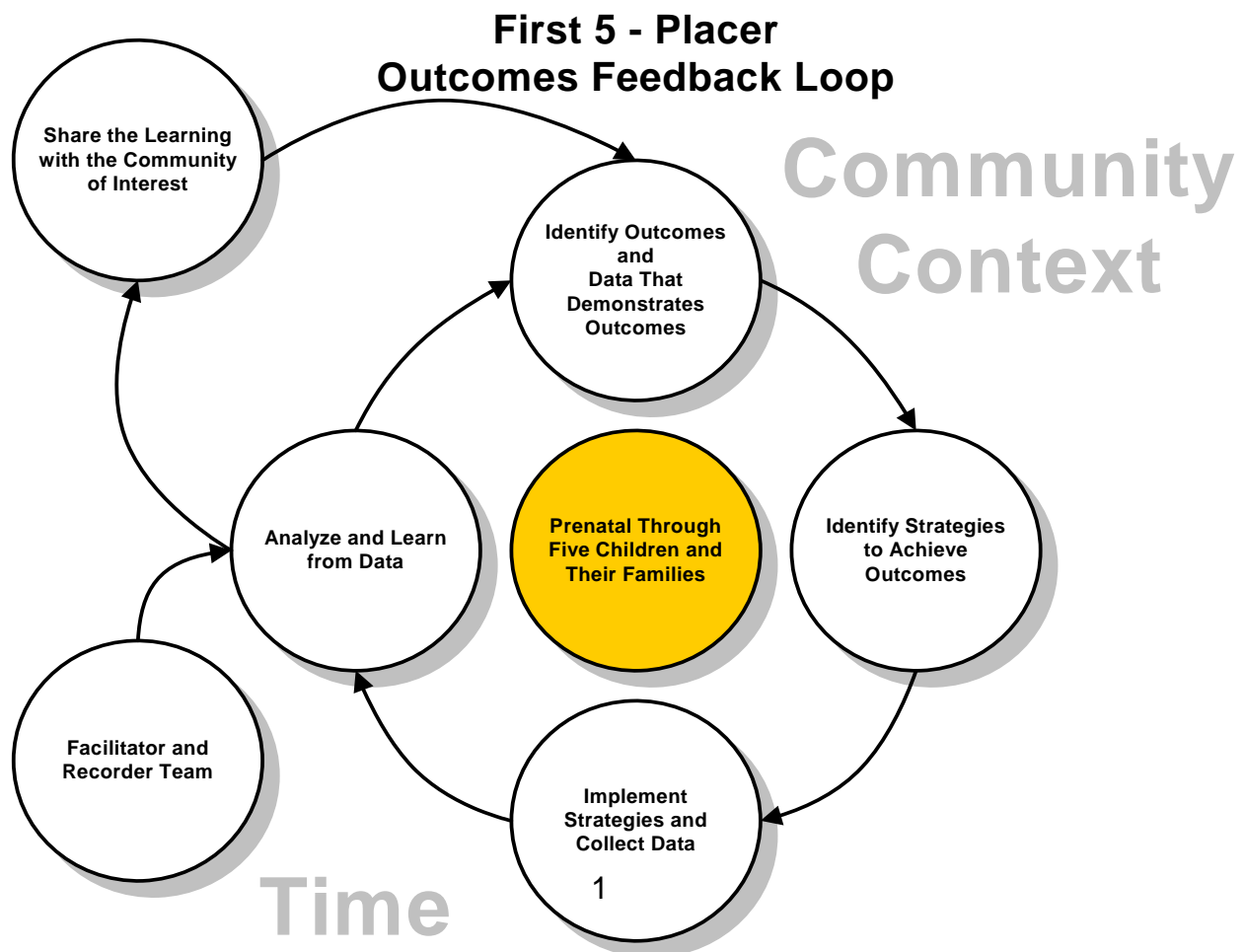**What is a Learning Conversations on Achievement of Outcomes?**

From the very beginning, the work of the First 5 Placer Children and Families Commission has focused on results. Starting with an inclusive community planning strategy that focused on outcomes and culminating in our innovative "Request for Results" application process. This continued with the provision of technical assistance to help our funded partners articulate outcomes (behaviors and/or conditions) and define performance measures (both qualitative and quantitative) to demonstrate achievement of outcomes.

We have a deep appreciation for the central role of generative relationships in the First 5 Partner Network that has been formed to provide services for children prenatal through 5. Timely information flow is critical to the healthy development of these relationships and we are fostering that information flow by sharing the notes and the data we review in our Learning Conversations. To do this we set up meetings with each funded partner where we create a safe place for conversation, analysis and communication related to data that has been collected to demonstrate achievement of outcomes. A neutral third party facilitates the conversations using a method developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs known as the "Focused Conversation". This method is also referred to as the "learning conversation." A scribe or "Recorder" captures key points made during the conversation. At the end of the conversation the Recorder's notes are reviewed to capture any highlights and/or learning and any next steps that emerged. That information is sent electronically to the entire Partner Network.

First 5 - Placer
Outcomes Feedback Loop

Community Context

Share the Learning with the Community of Interest

Identify Outcomes and Data That Demonstrates Outcomes

Prenatal Through Five Children and Their Families

Identify Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

Analyze and Learn from Data

Facilitator and Recorder Team

Implement Strategies and Collect Data

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Time

It is important to provide timely feedback to those who are working with our prenatal through 5. Clearly, "time" goes by very fast for these children and the brain is developing rapidly during these first years. Also, we are aware of the need to consider the "community context" within which the services are provided. This can be a community of interest such as childcare providers or lactation consultants, or a geographic context that takes into consideration the differing needs and resources that are found at Lake Tahoe as opposed to south Placer communities.

The theory is that our Partner Network is an adaptive interconnected system much like the neurons in the young child's brain. By providing a simple feedback loop to exchange outcome data (i.e., information) from one part of the system to the rest of the system we hope to foster system-wide knowledge about what is happening with our prenatal through 5 population countywide.

It is our hope that this information flow and relationship building will create sustainable linkages throughout the First 5 funded Partner Network that will help it adapt to the changing needs or families and provide meaningful, results - oriented services for children prenatal through 5 for years to come.

To read previous Learning Conversation notes and for more information about the Learning Conversation check our web page section titled Learning Conversations on Achievement of Outcomes

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